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Following summarizes Merchant's remarks to French Ambassador Alphand,
March 24, reviewing Macmillan-President talks:

At outset Macmillan and Lloyd described trip Moscow and subsequent visits Paris, Bonn. British impression was that Khrushchev firmly in saddle and only person in Soviet Government with whom West can negotiate substantively. British considered significant that Khrushchev had acknowledged that negotiations were appropriate way settle disputes. According British Khrushchev's character was mixture inferiority and superiority complexes.

Macmillan was most anxious specify date for Summit meeting in replies to Soviets. President had refused. There would accordingly be no repeat no automatic or unconditional Summit meeting. Only if and when developments in

Foreign Ministers Conference appeared justify Summit meeting would Foreign Ministers so recommend.

Analyst: *LM* Referring to press reports that Macmillan had succeeded in obtaining basic change in US position, Alphand opined there might be difference of

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Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by:

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"perspective" between US and UK on Summit meeting. Merchant replied ~~that~~ agreed
language in note was clear in reflecting US point of view.
Merchant continued that UK had accepted US formula on agenda as taken from Macmillan-Khrushchev communique.

In discussion on Berlin and overall German problem, Macmillan affirmed Khrushchev seeking freeze status quo. Macmillan believed German reunification should continue to be advanced by West as ultimate goal but ~~manifestly unrealizable now~~ manifestly unrealizable now. Macmillan suggested possible zone of inspection but with important qualifications: area should not repeat not be coterminus with national frontiers, no repeat no discrimination against Germany, foreign forces and nuclear arms should not repeat not be excluded from zone and latter should have effective inspection. Macmillan had in mind ceilings on forces and armaments but believed thinning out should take place principally on Warsaw Pact side. We had agreed study suggestion but nevertheless had serious reservations re setting up any isolated area without accompanying political settlement. Otherwise would only give rise false illusion that basic issues had been settled.

Re Berlin, Lloyd seemed inclined believe West should endeavor either maintain status quo or obtain "new and better title", guaranteed by four powers and possibly UN. We prepared study but had our doubts. We had also maintained we prepared treat with GDR authorities as agents but only if such specific role for GDR acknowledged by Soviets and if Soviets agreed remain ultimate recourse for Western three. Apart from this we believed no repeat no ~~other~~ solution for Berlin other than as capital reunified Germany.

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There had been general discussion on contingency planning but not repeat not gone into in detail. There had been reaffirmation of overall principles already agreed to by three powers. Also agreed subject French concurrence planning for military measures in European theater would be centralized in SHAPE under SACEUR. National planning would be done by respective Chiefs of Staff.

Some discussion had ensued regarding utility bringing in UN in event Soviet unilateral action or under other possible circumstances. No repeat no conclusions reached but agreed three permanent representatives New York should continue study this question.

It was agreed tripartite consultations with French and UK Ambassadors Washington should serve as overall coordination for current discussions New York and Bonn these and related issues. Moreover agreement ~~XXXXXX~~ reached on procedure and schedule for work prior Foreign Ministers Conference which had been cabled Paris and Bonn for approval.

There had also been "tour d'horizon" on current situations Middle East and Far East, particularly off-shore islands. Some general discussion also on economic matters, such as Soviet offensive this field.

Following are questions raised by Alphand and answers given by Merchant:

Q. Will USA-UK replies to Soviets be identical? A. No, only insofar as they concern questions of eventual Summit meeting, agenda and participation.

Q. What was decided on Italian participation? A. We would for present maintain our position to restrict conference to four powers at outset.

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Q. Was UK firm on basic Western rights remain Berlin and free access thereto?

A. Yes.

Q. Any discussion on agenda for eventual Summit meeting? A. Not in detail.

Only decided that Summit agenda would be broader than Foreign Minister's agenda to include such matters as disarmament but would presumably be primarily restricted to European problems.

Q. Any discussion on possible non-aggression pact between Western Germany and Poland, Czechoslovakia? A. No.

Q. Were British firm on non recognition Eastern Germany? A. Yes.

Q. Any discussion re "stamping of documents"? A. Only to extent Merchant discussed matter with Lloyd pointing out "right to stamp" also implied right to withhold stamp. However, we now studying possible procedures comparable to what might be given traffic police to give information ~~EXX~~ to GDR re allied movements to and from Berlin. Merchant said he thought in this connection we had focused too much on autobahn and not enough on air and rail access. Added Defense had sent representatives Germany study present procedures used at all check points in order give clearer picture Washington what precise procedures were being used.

Q. Did Macmillan propose series of Summit conferences? A. He merely suggested as possibility. However President pointed out Constitutional difficulties in his being absent from country either frequently or for long periods.

Q. Was there decision on time and place of eventual Summit meeting? A. No,

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but it was envisaged for summer and US view is that Geneva preferable given facilities there.

Q. Did Macmillan propose special treatment for German Army such as prohibition nuclear weapons? A. No.

Q. Was there discussion re suspension nuclear tests? A. Not repeat not conclusively. It was agreed we would study matter between now and April 13, particularly scientific data, in order see what alternatives there were if Soviets continued insist on veto of inspection.

Q. Was there agreement on delivery arms to Iraq as reported by press? A. Matter was discussed between Acting Secretary and Lloyd but we left it up to UK decide to do what they thought best. In any case US not repeat not considering arms assistance this juncture and had no repeat no requests for such.

Q. Was there decision on new loans to UAR? A. No, however US had now decided release some counterpart funds in local currency which had accrued several years ago from surplus wheat sales.

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